

U.S. Senator Mary Landrieu of Louisiana will visit Guatemala from April 22-27 to learn about the child welfare system and discuss issues related to international adoptions.

Senator Landrieu will meet with President Colom and other government officials and visit local organizations that work with neglected, abandoned, and orphaned children. During her visit the Senator will also celebrate the Easter holiday and participate in local cultural activities.

According to Senator Landrieu, "I'm eager and grateful for the opportunity to visit Guatemala – a country with vibrant culture and a long and rich history. In meeting with Guatemalan governmental officials, as well as NGOs and other private organizations, my hope is to gain perspective on ways the United States can assist Guatemala in providing healthy, family-based solutions for orphaned or otherwise neglected children. I also hope to be a voice for the approximately 350 U.S. families that are still awaiting clarity on the status of their international adoptions."

As a member of the Senate Subcommittee on State and Foreign Operations Appropriations, Senator Landrieu plays a key role in determining the funding for all U.S. government non-military foreign programs, such as USAID. She is also Chair of the Senate Committee on Small Business.